

# MEMORANDUM

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To: Mary Beth Marks, On Scene Coordinator,  
New World Project

CC: M. Cormier

From: Allan Kirk

Date: April 17, 2002

Re: Oil Stored at the Gold Dust Adit

Mike Cormier asked me to look at oil products stored and the Gold Dust Adit in the outbuilding that houses the old compressor, to the northwest of the mine portal. In September of 2001, I went to the outbuilding to inventory what was there. The roof and walls of the building, which used to be in good shape, have seriously deteriorated. The roof and a portion of the northeast wall have collapsed into the building, damaging the floor. The containers and drum described below were partially buried in debris.

Stored within the building were five (5) 2.5-gallon heavy-duty clear plastic jugs filled with a very lightweight, yellow, transparent, oil-like substance. Written by hand in indelible magic marker the outsides of most of the containers were the words "Transformer Oil". Three (3) of these containers were essentially full and the other two were about half full. The containers were in good shape, upright at the time I saw them, and there was no sign of leakage. In addition, there was one (1) unopened 55-gallon drum of a Texaco Oil Company Product called "Rock Drill Oil" (the product labels and descriptions are still on the drum). The value of the unopened drum is about \$180.00. The oil drum is full, lying on its side with no sign of leakage. Mining and drilling subcontractors that worked for Crown Butte Mines, Inc. during mine renovation and a subsequent underground drilling program during conducted 1992-1993 used both of these products. Upon completion of the underground drilling contract, the mine portal site and facilities were cleared and most of the equipment and material removed from the site by a sub-contractor to Crown Butte Mines in 1994 or 1995.

I removed the five small containers, placed them in my truck and transported them to a local sawmill that heats it's buildings with a furnace fueled by used oil. The 55-gallon drum was too heavy to be moved with the equipment I had at hand, and will need to have a fair amount of building debris removed in order to get the drum out of the building. It will likely take one or two people a few hours to remove the debris and load the drum onto a truck without some sort of mechanical lifting equipment. The drum appears to be safe enough from weathering to last for some time, however the threat of vandalism causing the container to leak is substantial. The drum will be removed as soon as the site is accessible in the late spring or early summer of 2002.



Photo of the partially collapsed compressor building in which the 55-gallon drum of Rock Drill Oil is stored.